

Public Hearing
April 3rd, 2013 8:00 PM
Weston Middle School Cafeteria

Summaries of the budget are available at the Public Hearing and from the Town Clerk after the hearing. A copy of the detailed budget is also available for public inspection in the office of the Town Clerk.

Present: Board of Finance Vice Chairman Mike O'Brien, board members Michael Carter, Steve Ezzes, Patty Kopas, David Finkel, Melissa Koller. *(Mr. Sargent not attending)*

Also present: First Selectman Gayle Weinstein, Selectman Dennis Tracey, Finance Director Rick Darling, Donna M. Anastasia Town Clerk, Dr. Colleen Palmer Superintendent of Schools; Town Hall employees and Department Heads; members of the Board of Education; several school Administrators, teachers and personnel. There were approximately 60 others present and Patty Gay from the Weston Forum.

Mr. O'Brien called the Public Hearing to order at 8:01 PM.

First Selectman Weinstein welcomed everyone to the meeting and stated that the budget was prepared very carefully with public safety initiatives, personnel costs, pension and insurance expenses considered. Some changes included increasing hours for Fire Marshal but decreasing hours elsewhere; energy charges and election costs allowed decreases there; liability and auto insurance costs decreased. We have reduced the Capital budget to offset the operating budget and recent Board of Ed recommendations have actually decreased their original budget due to insurance adjustments.

Ellen Uzenoff, Vice Chair Board of Education The budget has been built from the bottom up and we have substantial savings reflecting in a .39 increase. It is critical in our assessment that security and safety is a first priority. Although we are aware of a declining enrollment, caution must be exercised here should enrollment go up.

Call of the Meeting

Legal notice is hereby given of the Public Hearings of the Board of Finance of the Town of Weston on Wednesday April 3, 2013 and Friday April 5th, 2013 (if necessary), at 8:00 p.m. at the Weston Middle School Cafeteria, 135 School Road, Weston, CT for the following purpose:

To discuss the proposed budgets for the Board of Selectmen, the Board of Education, Capital Improvements and Debt Service as submitted to the Board of Finance for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2013. Said budgets are as follows:

BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S BUDGET

General Government	\$6,056,824
Public Safety	2,501,479
Public Works	1,777,135
Sanitation, Health & Environment	327,050
Human Services	637,332
Parks & Recreation	<u>390,621</u>
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S BUDGET	11,690,441

BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGET	46,293,668
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CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BUDGET	1,116,228
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DEBT SERVICE BUDGET	6,554,632
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GROSS TOWN BUDGET	65,654,969
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Less Estimated Revenues	(2,867,912)
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NET TOWN BUDGET	62,787,057
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Dated at Weston, Connecticut
This 21st day of March, 2013

Gerald T. Sargent III
Chairman
Board of Finance

Comments made from the floor are not direct quotes

Harvey Bellin, Maple St; Katie Gregory, Farrell Rd; Tammy Roberts, Old Redding Rd; Jennifer Haythorn, Winthrop Hill; Sarah Spaulding, Old Weston Rd; Dana Lintell, Kettle Creek Rd; Melissa Chessman, Lyons Plain Rd; Kim Miller, Valley Forge Rd; Dawn Watson, Walnut Lane; Neil Horner, Catbrier Rd; Anne Troxell, Lyons Plain Rd; Tammy Winslow, Bank Drive; Jennifer Carberry, Wildwood Lane; Jess DiPasquale, Pheasant Hill; Susan Moch, Woodchuck Lane; John Stark, Garden Rd; Megan Couch, Aspetuck Glenn; Jennifer Skor, Briar Oak Drive; Kathy Foster, Tannery Lane S; Kathy Green, Pheasant Hill; and twenty additional speakers.

Thirty of the speakers agreed to approve the Board of Education budget as submitted with several wanting the original budget (before insurance adjustment) approved. Additionally the speakers conveyed their support for a School Resource Officer and a "Mile of Safety" Officer for the Police Department.

Three speakers would like to see cuts made to the budget. Some of the comments included a cut to the school budget slightly lower than last year; the declining enrollment; taxes driving potential homebuyers to other town that offer much more; housing values not rising with tax increases; per pupil costs.

With no further questions or comments from the floor Mr. O'Brien adjourned the Public Hearing at 9:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Donna M. Anastasia, Town Clerk